

JANUARY 15, 1966

Volume 1, Number 2

Ray Palmer's

FORUM

25¢



THE ROMAN FORUM, IN THE DAYS OF THE EMPIRE

In the days of Rome's glory, when freedom was the paramount object of human existence, it was in this place that any man could speak his mind. Here was born the concept of freedom of speech and the right to gather together and discuss and argue the issues of the day, with no fear of suppression, retribution or injustice. The Forum is only ruins today, but its sacred moral foundations still remain the major goal of mankind. This magazine is, in its small way, the spirit of that ancient forum.

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FORUM is published every two weeks by Palmer Publications, Inc., C-137 Hickory, Mundelein, Illinois. Second Class Postage paid at the Post Office, Amherst, Wisconsin. Subscriptions 4 issues \$1.00; 8 issues \$2.00; 16 issues \$4.00; 26 issues \$6.50. Address all correspondence to: FORUM, Amherst, Wisconsin 54406.

***** EDITORIAL

THERE is a very famous admonition from an ancient Greek who advised us to "Know thyself". This is probably the most difficult thing to do that can be imagined. If we do not understand ourselves, how are we to understand anyone else, or for that matter, understand any thing else? For instance, we talk about being in love. How do we know we are in love? Just recently we encountered a young girl of eighteen who was, quite obviously, in love. That is, to judge by the pink cloud she was walking upon, and the delightful mental haze in which she was engulfed! So we asked her how she knew she was in love. Well, she gave us a list of reasons that certainly confused us. Things like: enjoying each other's company, the sharing of each other's problems, enjoying the same things, and so on. Well, I have a daughter who enjoys being with her horse, and is very happy in his company; she shares the horse's problems; she enjoys the same things - namely going for a canter down a country road in the golden summer afternoon. Obviously she loves this horse. But there must be something more specific which tells you what condition your emotions are in. It seems to be a problem of knowing yourself - and right there we



Ray Palmer

get back to the Greek philosopher and his admonition: just how DO you know yourself? It is an important thing to know for SURE if you are in love. It is also important to know anything that you are going to act upon which may effect your entire life. In this little magazine, I am supposed to be telling you things I know, and the first question that becomes pertinent is the vital one - do I know MYSELF well enough to be able to say I KNOW what I know? If I have deceived myself, then you will be deceived also!

When we delve into Eastern philosophy, we come upon a concept which is generally conceded

to be quite contrary to Western conceptions of reality. Basically, the Eastern viewpoint begins with total physicality and terminates in the very strange conclusion that reality does not exist, and that all is illusion. It says that we ourselves do not exist. It says that by the process of many reincarnations, the entity evolves until it approaches the Godhead, which is decided to be Nothing, spelled with a capital N. I suppose many Eastern philosophy students will bridle instantly at my explanation of this conclusion, and proceed to "set me straight" and come up with terms like Nirvana, and say that Nothing and Nirvana are not the same things, but that Nirvana is a sort of "merging with the Absolute, a sort of attainment with the "top", in which all personality, all individuality ceases, because it loses its "smallness" of concept and becomes "all-encompassing". I have always felt a sort of revulsion myself against losing my identity, even if it is to lose it to so supposedly glorious a thing as the "entirety" of creation, Nirvana, total surrender of self, or merging with the "god-head". We strive through all our lives to BE ourselves, to KNOW ourselves - and this only to give it all up in the end?

Therefore, the first condition I must satisfy in knowing myself is to be assured I AM. There is

another well-known statement that tells us directly that: "I think, therefore I am." The reality of our personal existence seems to depend on our ability to think. If we think we exist, then we do. At least the statement I have just quoted postulates this as axiomatic. If it is an axiom, we ought to examine it more closely now and try to discover if it has anything to discredit it.

Let's take a look once more at Eastern philosophy: the mystic tries to attain a state of Nirvana, or attunement, or nothingness, by consciously stilling his thoughts. If he can manage to calm himself physically enough, he can also slow down the thought processes until his mind "becomes a blank", and he is not thinking. What happens to him if he is successful? Does he cease to exist? No, even in his goal of Nirvana, he only "merges" with the ultimate, which he defines as an illusion, and becomes a part of the illusion. But he still has an illusion. No matter how much he tries to attain the goal he seeks, he is saddled with a remnant of reality, a REAL illusion. An illusion is a "figment of the imagination", a faculty of the mind, a result of thought. So, even in the Eastern concept we find that thinking makes us real (and we suspect, makes all things about us real). Here may be the Eastern definition of illusion, after all! Even the physical things

around us are REAL only because we think of them. In this sense, the Eastern mystic is correct in his concept "all is illusion", because if the powers of mind and thinking he contemplates are as enormously powerful as his philosophy states, then we are dealing with a remarkable reality, not a remarkable UN-reality! It is a peculiar reversal of thought that has one philosophy stating that to think is to be, while another employs thinking as a means to become nothing.

I think about myself, and I conclude that I am real. I say that I am existent. When I try to think of myself as non-existent, I fail to convince myself. I may even try to attain that "state" Eastern mystics are trying to reach by going into this complete "stilling of the thought processes", but I find myself failing rather quickly, and I find that the mystic fails in the end also, by arriving at a "something-ness" called "illusion", which he CREATED by his thought - the ONE thought he couldn't eliminate!

Because I find it impossible to accept the thought that I do not exist, I have reached a sort of axiom of my own: If I can't think it, it isn't so!

Let's get back to the girl in love for a moment: Can she think about NOT being in love? Can she say to herself: "I am not in love," and find it acceptable?

In my opinion, she cannot. At

the moment, this concept is totally incomprehensible (if she really IS in love) and the very thought is rejected because of its basic impossibility. She says: "I AM in love," and therefore she is! The same axiom ought to hold true: I think, therefore I am, should it not? We are forced to use reason here, on a subject which seems to be wholly emotional. But unless we can attack it SUCCESSFULLY, the reality of it cannot be questioned.

Perhaps the Eastern mystic would say that the feeling of love is an illusion, created out of desire, but isn't what he is really saying is that it is a reality, because even the ultimate illusion, which he says EVERYTHING is, is born of THINKING?

I would say to this girl: "Yes, you are in love, because you THINK you are."

Let's go into the matter of how we think, for a moment. Just what IS thinking? From the moment we are conceived, things begin to happen to us, environmental things which we perceive by means of our senses. Experience comes first, and is cumulative. As we accumulate experiences, we store them in our memory, and as we add to the number of experiences, we find we have greater facility at calling them to mind, and making them perform. As a child, we might dredge out the memory of a dog and a cat and a mouse, and put

these three memories together in a fanciful sort of way and imagine an animal with the head of a cat, the body of a dog, and the tail of a mouse. No matter how we think about these three animals, with the idea of combining them into one animal, the resultant one animal is never a completely NEW animal, a completely NEW experience. The combinations only are different - the head is that of a dog, the body of a mouse, the tail of a cat. And it is no wonder that this kind of thinking does not produce a REAL animal, because when we THINK about it, we find it impossible to accept that this combination is anything but parts of a cat, a dog, a mouse. We KNOW the reality here, and we reject the unreality.

As we grow older, we are able to think in more complex fashion, simply because we have more to think about. But the fact remains that thinking is factual. About factual things. We all say: "prove it!" and if no disproof is forthcoming, we accept the fact. If we cannot draw upon our experiences to reject anything we know, we cannot discard it. We say we KNOW for a fact.

In this magazine I have but one policy, and that is to state what I know, and my only guidepoint in deciding if it is knowledge or not is to subject it to thought, and if I cannot challenge it credibly, I present

it as truth. I think it is true, therefore it is true (or I do not exist!).

Yes, I can hear you now - all of you shouting: "But, you CAN be mistaken!" That is perfectly true. I can think about being mistaken, but when I do, I cannot find a fact to bolster it. The pertinent thing about being mistaken is that if you KNEW you were mistaken, you would not be mistaken! Thus it may well be that many of the things I know may be mistakes, but I don't KNOW as yet that they ARE mistakes. Future experience may provide facts to reveal the error of my knowledge. How many times have we all said, rather ruefully: "I THOUGHT I was right, but I was wrong!"?

But there is another factor in knowing yourself: It is the factor of self-delusion. Many of us convince ourselves of something because we want it to be so. We go through a sort of pseudo-thought called rationalization, and we accept it without really subjecting it to that test of conviction called thinking. When asked why we think a thing is true, we don't say: Because I have thought about everything that could possibly disprove it, and I find all this thinking totally impossible. Instead we say it is true because something else is true, therefore it follows . . . But it does not follow! Let's go back to the girl in love, and the girl with the horse. Both have

the same "set of truths", and because of these sets, we must then assume that either or both of them might just as well be in love with the man or the horse, or both.

When the girl in love is pressed for a better reason, she finally resorts in desperation to: "I just KNOW I am in love!" If she knows it, it can only be because the reverse of that knowledge is IMPOSSIBLE. I think, therefore I am. What I know is as real to me as myself.

Can it be that emotion is also thinking? Certainly emotion has a powerful effect on mind. The tremendous emotion of love sweeps absolute conviction into the mind, and the mind accepts the love without further question. Does it do this because it is presented with incontestible evidence? It is said that desire is father to the deed. Certainly physical love is desire, and the creation of desire can only be the creation of reality. In the New Testament we are told that the Commandments are superceded by one new one, called Love. "And this is the greatest of them all..."

As I write this material for the FORUM, I know it to be the truth, as I see it - because I ask myself if it is possible my intent

is to deceive, to lie; and I find the concept totally unacceptable. I find that it is impossible to destroy these facts I am so desirous of passing on to you by thinking about them as being deliberately lies. Just as this girl is sure she is in love, I am sure that I KNOW. And if I do not know, I will say so. I am sure that if YOU know, you will tell me! That way we will both get to know.

This is, to me, the real meaning of FAITH. Not just acceptance in a blind fashion, but acceptance because we KNOW. We may argue eternally as to whether emotion is less valid than thought or reason, but based on the thinking I have done in this article, it may be that emotion and thought are one and the same thing! It is an intriguing concept, isn't it? I'd like to have your thoughts on it. And I wouldn't be surprised if this girl I was telling you about might not have some thoughts of her own, to go along with her emotions. Perhaps in her heart she knows more than all of us can claim to in our minds! At least in her innocence she has made me think along a new track! Inspiration comes from the most unexpected sources. Rap.

WHERE DO IDEAS COME FROM?

We open our mouth and speak, but where do our ideas come from? Is it not the Creator's light falling upon us that causeth our ideas to come forth? - Oahspe.

THE SIGN OF THE ARROW

RAY PALMER

JUST WHAT is an arrow? The dictionary says it is 1) a weapon; and 2) a mark indicating direction. It is this second definition which actually is the oldest concept of the arrow. Although the weapon arrow was invented very early in primitive times, it is not as a weapon that the symbol had its beginning. The fact is, the symbol, indicating direction, is one of the very oldest symbols in the universe. When the caveman ventured into the unknown country surrounding his cave, he would, if he wished some other member of his cave home to follow him, aid in the following by making a mark in his trail. This was usually just a straight line, but the first caveman who used it, must have discovered very early that it had to be more than just a line, because the follower had to know which way to follow the line! So he placed a mark at the end of the line which indicated this important distinction in direction. He placed

a tiny wedge at one end of the line. He drew the same symbol we see today on all our highways, indicating the direction we should take to get to our destination.

It is an interesting thing to think about this ancient caveman, hitting upon the idea of marking his trail with an arrow. Let's think of a half-dozen planets like the Earth (or why not even think of millions!) all with human life having evolved to the condition of primitive cave man. Isn't it staggering to realize that each one would arrive at the arrow, or some form of it, as the method of communicating direction to his fellows? Here we have an idea that has always been of primary interest to me. The idea of the beginnings of language, both written and spoken. We have a seemingly logical acceptance in our reconstruction of ancient peoples of spoken language coming first, and this just in basic sounds like OH and AH and possibly just the grunt. More complex sounds,

like those involving complicated positions of tongue and lips, came later. And we say that writing came last. I don't quite agree with this. I take the symbol of the arrow, as an example, and I think that this symbol might easily have evolved in the OH and AH and grunt period. But most amazing to me is the idea that these symbols do not have to be taught, to be universal! They seem to be basic, and they certainly are intelligent, and I am intrigued by the question of WHOSE intelligence devised them, and HOW are they conveyed universally to all evolving humans?

This is a subject which is a large one in itself, and in this bit of reflection, I intend only to treat with the arrow symbol itself; because at the moment it is a very important one to me. Direction is important in any new venture, and in FORUM, we are heading in a new direction.

In order to add one more factor to my argument to follow, I want to give you one more element in the long series that leads me to believe in the universality of symbols, and the singleness of their origin, by adding the next logical step to that caveman's first directional sign. The arrow itself told the one who was to follow the actual direction to take. But more information than this was necessary: the length of time it would take to get there was a factor, especially if

you had to have sufficient water and food to carry you the whole way. So, another basic sign was added. Nothing is more basic to life on this earth than the sun. So, the caveman added the sun's circle to his directional sign. Underneath it he drew a circle (symbolic of the sun) for each day's travel it would take to reach the destination being pointed to. Three circles would be three days. Here was the beginning of a sign language, a symbol means of communication, which was universal, easy to read without any previous education to enable you to read it, and infinitely simple.

Having given you this second example of how symbology must be basic, universal, intelligent, and linked to Time's beginning, no matter what our concept of Eternity, I can return to the one symbol in question here, the arrow, and what it means (to me).

In its first meaning, that of direction, we find it to be the most important of all symbols. Our entire existence, but initially our lives on this planet, are a matter of direction. Where are we going? This is the primary question all people ask themselves. It is the question FORUM exists to try to answer. It is the vital answer we are seeking. Many people think the answer to the question, WHY are we here is the important one, but it should be seen upon reflection that if we know WHERE, we will

find out why in the orderly course of events WHEN we get there! The one remaining question, HOW, is the only one strictly up to US! We have the liberty and the free will to provide that final answer. Thank heaven for that!

Since my 55 years of asking questions has resulted in the firm conviction that there is PURPOSE in existence, the symbol of the arrow as a purposeful symbol leads directly to the author of it, and the reason for the placing of it in our lives for our direction.

Every day there are arrows placed in our path, indicating direction. Simplest, of course, are the traffic signs that take us from place to place; but more complex are what I might call "invisible" arrows that sometimes are difficult to recognize, and at other times are impossible to fail to recognize, so powerful is the blow they deal us as they strike directly into our minds and hearts, just as though they were the actual weapon arrows that are our usual definition of the word.

It is with these direct and indefinable direction signs that I am concerned in this treatise on the "sign of the arrow".

Let's just say that the "person" who fires these arrows of direction at us is "God". There may be an intermediary, but originally the symbol comes from the Original Intelligence, and no matter who is

delegated to string the bow, we are dealing with the origin. (By the way, speaking the word "bow" reminds us of the saying: "To draw the long bow" which is a way of saying a falsehood is being told. A person who draws the long bow is a prevaricator. Isn't it odd that this connotes false information, false direction? If you follow the fork in the road indicated by a liar, you will become lost.) How can we recognize these "arrows" when they are fired at us, or placed in our path? And is there anything in our knowledge that indicates that we are not just indulging in fantasy in reasoning this way?

Just as one example, let's go to one of the favorite concepts of lovers, Cupid and his arrows of love. On St. Valentine's day, we send each other cards, showing this little "child" firing arrows into our hearts, and instantly causing the victim to fall in love.

I mentioned something about this in the editorial in this issue, in connection with the girl who "knew" she was in love, but couldn't exactly put in words how she knew. She was, we think, literally struck by one of Cupid's arrows, and it was this invisible arrow that gave her a directional sign of tremendous importance in her life, because in following its pointing symbol, she will take a very drastic step in her life: marriage and all it implies - children, responsi-

bility, sharing life with others, loving them, caring for them, feeding them, teaching them, and so on. Also, she will be directly affecting her personal happiness, and the happiness of her loved husband, and of her children. This one invisible arrow has tremendous import, and my contention is that it has deliberate, intelligent PURPOSE behind it, from a DEFINITE source, an INTERESTED and a GUIDING intelligence, which in its generating form may be the "God" we postulated, but actually the work of some sort of "delegated authority". I know that what I am getting at here is contrary to the concept of free choice, in a way, but I will try to explain how it actually is not.

We like to talk of "inspiration" and we pray for "guidance", and we accept certain "happenings" as "fortunate", and we do not consider these things to interfere in any way with our choice, the free aspect of which we cherish so much. So, the idea that there may be an outside force which pushes us in certain directions is not objectional, because we say that we can still accept it or reject it.

Let's just put ourselves in the place of the girl in love. She has just been pierced through the heart by an arrow fired by Cupid, and bingo, we suddenly realize that the boy we have been dating is "it", and we prepare ourselves

to somehow get him to propose so we can say: "I thought you'd never ask!" It's all still free choice. We COULD still turn the poor victim down, if we wanted to. And since he, too, has been hit with an arrow by Cupid, it's a two-way street.

Here's where we come to a rather peculiar thought, though! How is it that Cupid was so clever as to fire an arrow at our boy friend too? Mighty convenient thing to happen! What if it hadn't happened? He might NEVER have asked, and we would have been desolate in our all-consuming fiery love which is unrequited. This would be a very bad situation!

Cupid, when you think of him, is a queer little fellow, isn't he? He is pictured as a cherubic little child, hardly more than a chubby baby, fat and cute, and with a pair of tiny angel wings. He actually is a baby, and the kind you would fall in love with instantly, as you do any baby. Place one in your arms, and you find your heart going out to him. Here we have unrequited love, too! The baby is hardly aware of you, may even start crying at sight of your strange face. But it makes no difference to you - you love him anyway. Let's take a closer look at Cupid. He uses his baby magic on his victims, and with his arrows he makes you do something that is not really reasonable. He makes you uncontrollably in love with a

person who might not be in love with you. True, he most always seems to be charitable enough to use another arrow, and give you your heart's desire. You will have to admit, however, that not always does he fire his arrows so compassionately. Anyway, here we are confronted with another bit of symbolism. Isn't it strange that Cupid is a baby? Could it be so that we do not suspect that we are being deliberately forced into an act we have no real free choice in carrying out? Aren't we being led into a compact of very serious nature by a "sneak attack" with a deadly weapon - one tipped with a "potion" called "love", or physical attraction" - or whatever it is that causes this compelling emotion that overrides our reason and decides the question of whether or not we will marry this particular man?

Here, once more, we have the evidence that the arrow is more than a symbol, more than a chance invention of a caveman to indicate the direction he took, or to tell his follower the direction to take. Here is a case, cleverly disguised, of DIRECTION from somewhere else, and from SOMEONE else, some intelligent action aimed at achieving a particular result. The whole thing carries with it vast implications and ramifications. In this case, isn't the arrow symbolic of a very important kind

of "guidance", the serious business of reproduction and continuance, and possibly improvement in a breeding sense of the human race?

Let's just assume that this intelligence, whoever it is, wants to produce a particular kind of human being, and he has decided that two persons have the required genes and chromosomes to bring about the genetic result he has in mind. The first thing he does is employ the arrow (on a highway, perhaps) to direct one of these persons to another. Maybe the boy misses a turn because he didn't see the arrow at the fork in the road, and had to stop in a restaurant to ask his way - and there was the girl, who looked interesting enough for him to change his plans and try for a date.

Well, we can go on to the ultimate arrow, the Cupid's dart, that completes the design this intelligence has had from the first and the selected pair pair off, marry, have the children with the required genetic combination, and a plan has been carried to fruition. All without destroying the precept of free will!

Quite a remarkable fantasy, don't you think? But how many of you who read this can look back at your marriage, and say that something of this nature is not entirely beyond your suspicions?

On how many of your lives is written the "sign of the arrow"?

IT'S A MYSTERY

RAY PALMER

I n this section of FORUM each issue, I am going to present a problem to you. Confronting us on this planet are so many mysterious things that "educated" people habitually sweep under the rug (possibly in the hope that these uncomfortable unexplainables will go away, and not upset their neatly explained and catalogued lives). Some of these things are so mysterious that very few people are even aware of them, even though they exist in plain view under their very noses. Let's take the moon, for a beginning. Being the closest of the heavenly bodies, it is the most easily observed, and we know more about it than any object in the sky. We can see mountains and craters and various topographical features that make us say the moon is a world not too different from ours, except that it is a "dead" world, with no atmosphere to support life, and in a sad state of temperature extremes. We explain the lack of

atmosphere to the fact that through the ages, the atmosphere has escaped into space due to the moon being a smaller body than the earth and possessing less gravitational power to hold its atmosphere. It is about one fifth the bulk of the earth, and about one third its diameter. But we must admit it is a fairly large body at that - compared to a comet, for instance. Now, comets are very mysterious indeed. We have a very recent visit in the Ikeya-Seki comet, which unfortunately appeared in the daytime so that most of us never got to see what actually was a very spectacular heavenly display. It had a coma 3,000 miles in diameter, and a tail from 2 million to 10 million miles long, and appeared from earth (where it was visible in the Far East, as large and as bright as a full moon. It had a singular difference from all previous comets, which were cold, in that it was a "hot" comet. This



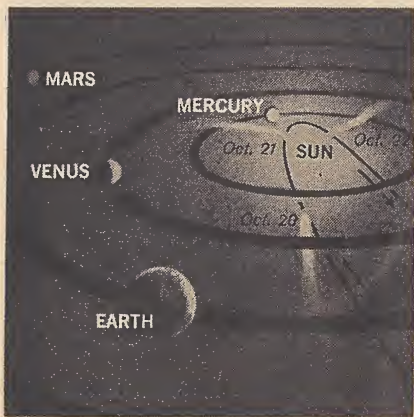
Comet Ikeya-Seki

sure of the sun, and always points away from the sun. Thus, as the comet swept around the sun in a sharp turn, pulled around by the enormous gravity of the sun, the tail (especially at its very rearward portions, had to sweep around like the last man on a "snap the whip" lineup, at quite a pace indeed. If a comet is traveling at a speed of a million miles an hour, and the tail is ten million miles long, you can see that the end of the tail is really going!

When the comet had completed its circuit of the sun, the tail preceded it into the cold reaches of space from which the comet had come, and gradually disappeared, drawn back, along with the coma, into the body of the comet, to freeze again, and await the repeat performance some hundreds of years

gave astronomers cause to wrinkle their brows, because they even felt it might be as hot as the sun. How this could be, in a body so small, was something to explain, and a something they could not explain.

However, they went through the usual process of explaining to the newspapers, who explained to us, that comets have tails, and these tails, normally invisible, until lighted by the sun, come from the comet's frozen ice, methane, etc. which melts as it approaches the sun and spreads out into the giant coma, and the tail. The tail, being tenuous to beat the dickens, is at the mercy of the light pres-



hence.

They say this in all seriousness. They tell us the moon, a far vaster body than a comet, cannot hold its atmosphere, and certainly could not retrieve it after it was ten million miles away, yet they tell us with equal certainty, that a comet only about ten miles in diameter, can turn the trick with the greatest of ease!

Perhaps the logic behind the reasoning of the astronomers is a lot more mysterious than the comet itself! But let's attribute the astronomers' mental contortions to human frailty, and concentrate on the comet itself. Could it be that the coma and the tail are not the vaporized material of the comet at all? Let's use our imaginations (more conservatively than the astronomers, though!) and say the comet has a tail because it is sending out some kind of signal that it is about to make a right turn, and for the sun to keep an eye out for the red light.

This signal is some sort of electronic emission of the comet which "locks on" to the sun's own "electronic system", and in its passage through the faint haze of hydrogen atoms that permeate all space around the sun, causes them to glow sort of like a neon light glows. The result might be a sort of "reverse shadow" that the comet casts behind it, so that as it rounds the sun, this electronic

shadow (light instead of dark) always keeps itself demurely hidden from the sun itself. But our astronomers see it, and explain it neatly as a lot of gas on a heavenly witches dance.

This comet, unlike any other comet ever observed, contained iron in its makeup. No doubt when the final results of observation are in, this one will be labeled a very mysterious mystery!

Let's consider the comet's orbit - it is an elongated ellipse, and as it pursues its strange orbit, it comes in toward the sun, and is speeded up by the sun's gravitational pull, until it literally hurls itself around the sun in a tight turn at the end of its ellipse, then begins its journey far out into space (crossing the more or less circular orbits of all the planets as it does so) and with the sun's gravity now acting as a drag on its speed, goes slower and slower until it reaches the point where its speed is so little that it no longer is greater than the gravity of the (extremely!) distant sun, and it makes another identical tight turn, and starts back toward the solar system and its rendezvous with this oh so potent sun.

We hear a lot about "escape velocity" in reference to putting astronauts and satellites into orbit around the earth. We have to send a rocket up at better than 17,000 miles per hour for it to

avoid going into an irregular orbit around the planet; and when we achieve this better than 17,000 mile speed we say we have no possibility of return, and the satellite will continue on into deep space. The sun is roughly 80,000 times the mass of the earth, and a speed of 1 million miles per hour falls short of escape velocity by a ratio of about 22 to 1. So we can see why the comet itself will come back. But how can we believe that an atom of methane gas, at a distance of twenty million miles, being left behind by a comet that has speeded up from about 1,000 miles per hour to 1 million miles per hour, and has made a quick and sharp turn to head off in entirely another direction (a very distinct deviation in its orbit) will now find its way back to its parent body?

The comet with its less than ten mile diameter, its micro-millionth mass of the sun, is supposed to be able to perform this miracle of gravity! Let's classify this as a mystery and try to forget it - it will be easier than trying to reconcile it with the failure of the moon to draw back its own atmosphere.

Of course, if this coma and it aren't really material parts of the comet, then we don't have to face this impossible paradox. So, the truth about anything being the tendency toward simplicity rather

than complexity, we can reason that the coma and tail are not material and are indeed something else. The something else can be that electronic thing I mentioned. And here we introduce another mystery, this one more incomprehensible than the first one, which seems to have been eliminated by a little simple reasoning and Missourian doubt.

What might this electronic factor be? The comet is similar to all the other material in the solar system, say the astronomers. The whole system, planets, satellites, meteorites, comets, space debris, are all part of the initial "creation" of the system. So, if the comet has this electronic idiosyncrasy, why not the planets? Why doesn't Mercury, Venus, the Earth, have a tail? The Earth seems to have one, our astronauts tell us; but not Mercury and Venus (if they had, we should be able to see them). Same material, should have same characteristics, wouldn't you say?

Could it be that comets are a "different thing than is dreamed of in our philosophy"? What sort of a different thing? How about a communications link between the planets? The intersecting orbits seem to lend themselves admirably to something like this. If this could be a deliberate thing, it would certainly provide us with a mystery far greater than any we have suggested so far in this little expose of the mystery of the comet

(as a comet). Let's go way out into left field and call this a "street-car" instead of a comet. Let's say that the regular "schedule" of comets is actually a schedule. Let's "hook" a ride on one!

Perhaps one of the oldest bits of lore we know of is the matter of the zodiac, and the twelve signs of the zodiac. If we were to get into a space ship and travel about the solar system, we would strangely enough find we could use this zodiac for a navigational aid without any real modification necessary. We would say it was "made to order" for the purpose of steering a course about the solar system in the plane of the ecliptic. The plane of the ecliptic! How simple sounding a set of words! I won't go into the remarkable coincidences necessary here, but believe me, if you think of them in relation to space travel, the zodiac, and the solar system itself, you will tend to find it too incredible to ascribe to chance.

Now, it is the comet which has the most pertinency to the "navigational" implications of the zodiac. So we find a semi-quasi (!) justification for our fanciful concept of "street cars" instead of comets.

Could it be that there would be a "transportation system" with nobody to use it? A system which seems to be "mapped out" enough to have a human basis on this planet? Is it a fact that once, in the

forgotten past of Earth, there were navigators of the solar system who used the ancient "zodiac" as their "chart", and steered by it, and determined their position in space by "shooting the sun" with the equivalent of a sextant, and computing their whereabouts just as a sailor computes his location on the ocean?

Could it be pure astrological and mystical chance that a system of "character reading" could be so admirably applicable to space navigation as to be more credible for the latter than the former?

Finally, the legendary lore of dead and gone races give us so many remarkable "ships" "vehicles" "chariots" concepts to comets that we find added evidence to support our ridiculous(?) theory. We find the strange book, Oahspe, telling us flatly that comets are space ships. We have Richard Shaver and his Shaver Mystery postulating an ancient race (for which there is tremendous evidence) who traveled space in what he calls "cometrams" (comet trams, or comet street cars or busses). Do we discard all this material in favor of an astronomical explanation far more incredible, and lacking in supporting evidence to a far greater degree, and in fact, having positive contradictions?

There is a mystery, all right, but the mystery cannot be what science says it is!

ALL I KNOW IS WHAT I READ IN THE PAPERS

RAY PALMER

THAT'S WHAT Will Rogers used to say. It was a favorite expression with him, and most people took it as an expression of modesty. Actually, Will Rogers knew a lot of things - and it was the things he said that mostly endeared him to the millions who believed Will Rogers to be one of Nature's Noblemen. From all the things I've read that he said, I have come to a rather different idea of what was involved in his famous statement that all he knew was what he read. I have a hunch that he was trying to tell people something very important. I think he was saying: "There's a lot more knowledge in what you read (in the papers, or anywhere else) than you might think!"

As a high school student, I was fairly good in English, flunking out badly when it came to parsing a sentence, but getting straight A when it came to themes. One of my themes was the very first science fiction story I ever wrote, and I wrung everything I could out of it! I used it as a class paper (and got an A on it); I submitted it to Hugo Gernsback's "Wonder Stor-

ies" and sold it for \$40.00 (about 1/3¢ per word); and I concealed in its "fiction" something that was true, but so unbelievable that I knew it would be unacceptable in any other form. First, the story was about 50% a dream. The dream portion involved the locale, which was on the west coast of Africa, along a river I have now forgotten the name of (the mouth of it is just below the "bulge" of the upper half of Africa, where the coast line turns down the long coast to the Cape of Good Hope, if you are interested in checking on a map. About 40 miles up this river are the mysterious stone remains of a fairly large city. Who built it, or when, is a mystery to those who delve into the dim past of the Earth's early races.

Briefly, I built a fanciful story of traveling backward in time many thousands of years to a period when a large city existed here on the river bank. The title of the story was "The Time Ray Of Jandra" and it was entirely fiction - except the description of the ruins! This description I got from my dream, and I described it exactly

as I had seen it in the dream. Why not? It saved inventing a description, and it fitted so exactly into what I had in mind.

You can imagine my astonishment, when months later, after the story was published, I got a letter which bore on its face merely my name "Raymond A. Palmer". No address, no city, no country. It had been mailed in Bloemfontain, South Africa, and it came from a very famous big game guide. He was curious, he said, as to my true identity, because he had guided all the white men who had ever gone up this river to the ruined city, and therefore, he must have been my guide, no matter what name I was using for a penname, and he would be interested in knowing my real name - also that he had gotten a great thrill over seeing this ruined city described so accurately, by one who could report in a factual manner he frankly found rare in other writers about Africa.

I wrote him, said my name was as published with the story, that I had never been in Africa, and that the description of the city was a complete fiction. I received a reply which courteously accepted my desire to remain anonymous, but that he knew I was obviously one of his more famous clients, and nevertheless, he had enjoyed reading the story, and complimented me on its accuracy - and if I ever came back to Africa, to look him up and talk

over old times.

Now, here is an example of what I mean when I say Will Rogers might have meant something more subtle when he said his knowledge came from his reading the newspapers. In this story, a science fiction yarn, there was some concealed truth. More fantastic, in this case, was that the truth came via some mysterious means, as seen in a dream. Not even the author knew that he had included a portion of truth in his story!

I am convinced that, in the fiction writings of mankind, there are many deliberate truths told, in this secret, sugar coated form, if not too many in this "unconscious" form. To a person who has read a large amount of the world's fiction classics, such as legends, fairy tales, ancient Greek epics, and so on, a large amount of truth has been instilled in his subconscious mind. If there is a "secret" lore", hidden somewhere, it is more likely to be hidden here, in the open, where no one would suspect it, or think to look, than in any secret hidden library deep in a Tibetan mountain, or some such unlikely place. What good would such lore be, if not available to anyone who had the eyes to see and the wit to look?

For instance, how much of the Greek manuscript, "The Oddysey" is really a truthful exposition of a reality we don't have with us today,

but which was literally true in those olden days? Was there really a Gorgon? And a Golden Fleece? If so, what were they, really?

I have read many modern books of fiction which, as I read them, gave me a growing conviction that there was something more than fiction here. I can mention one, in particular - "The Egyptian", by Miki Waltari. As I read more and more of Sinhue, the Egyptian surgeon, I became more and more sure that Waltari was writing of another man, and that Waltari KNEW he was writing of another man - and I was SURE that man was Moses! Sinhue, I believe, is the author's way of telling the world the result of a lifetime of research into the Bible and ancient Egyptian records that had convinced him Moses was more than biblical history ascribed him to be.

I was convinced of this because Moses had also intrigued me, from the time of my first reading of the Bible as a child. To me he was the most mysterious figure in the Bible, and the miracles he had performed fascinated me beyond measure. I did not believe them literally, nor their source. I believe they were natural things, and that while Moses lived during the period in which they occurred, actually he had not had anything to do with them other than use them cleverly to attain his own ends, the release from

bondage of the Israelites.

My own research had introduced me to many inconsistencies and intrigues in the life of Moses, one of which was his actual age, and another his "forty years" outside of Egypt which I could not fit into Biblical chronology. Thus, when I read of Sinhue's banishment for that period, I could not believe that a former Methodist (if I remember correctly) minister would have made such a parallel and not been aware he had made it - and thus that he had made it deliberately. Once this conviction grew in my mind, it was possible to read "The Egyptian" and get an entirely new picture from it.

Later I discovered that Waltari had been criticized by his religious superiors for research work which had tended to question the accuracy of the scriptures, particularly during the time of the Exodus, and I knew for sure that I had been given a "secret" via the fiction of "The Egyptian". How great a secret I was not to know for many years! But that is another story, and one which will take a book to tell! And a book that I WILL write!

What I am postulating here is that the world's fiction must be full of truth. It is merely necessary to read with astuteness the writings of the early most important writers, and the modern most capable and most educated ones, to find that a secret lore is indeed in existence,

and that a large number of writers have resorted to the only method not subject to "book burning" suppression because the material is not conducive to the permanence of the positions of power occupied by a "group" in a position to be harmed by "too much truth".

Sienkewicz, says Richard Shaver, in his writings, was not a writer suffering from a delusion of of persecution, but actually fled from a relentless pursuer who pursues many men even today, just as relentlessly and cruelly. There are secrets in the world that can only be told by subterfuge - the subterfuge of fiction. I think Will Rogers was aware of it, and when he said "All I know is what I read in the papers," he was saying that he knew a great deal, and we could know it too, if we would read and think deeply of what we were reading, and weigh those things which "rang some sort of subconscious bell" as they were read.

I have rarely written a fiction

story (and I have written many hundreds) in which I have not deliberately included some truth, as often as possible some secret truth. I have found that a story containing something of this nature, very mysteriously proves more popular and well received than a story that is purely fantasy. Just as my first story brought a response from far off Africa of a very surprising and exciting nature, I have many times found that throughout the world are many people who "read between the lines" and see what is hidden to the casual reader. This sort of response has NEVER come from a story that did not have this thread of secret truth woven into it. That to me is evidence that Will Rogers, whether he knew it or not, was giving sage and mysterious and valuable advice to those who delve into the printed word.

"All I know . . ."

How much DID you know, Will Rogers!

THE DARKNESS AT THE CRUCIFIXION

JOHN MORRISON

"Now from the sixth hour there was darkness all over the land till the ninth hour." - Math. 27-45.

The only eclipse which occurred during this Olympiad, which was visible over Asia Minor, must have happened as early as the 24th of November, 29 A. D. The day of the Crucifixion corresponded with the

Jewish Passover, on the 14th of the month Nisan; and the Passover was always celebrated at the time of the full moon. The sun cannot therefore have been darkened by the moon for three hours. Obviously the darkness was not caused by an eclipse. What could it have been?

LETTERS



IN THIS second issue of the FORUM, being written as the first one is being shipped, we naturally do not have any letters to print in the "Letters" section except the one which follows, a letter written by a reader who "jumps the gun" to submit a theme in which she is interested. Over the issues to come in the future, we will no doubt touch on a very wide variety of themes, so this present letter is certainly no indication of what is to come, and may not even be quite representative of what we'd like to present. However, there are a few points in this letter your editor might have a few thoughts about. To you who are reading this issue, we hope you will take the time to get a letter in to us, asking any question you choose, or broaching any subject you might think could lead to an interesting discussion. I know many of you have bothersome questions you'd like to answer me, ones you will expect me not to "weasel out" of. You know, some of you have often accused me of actually not answering at all, but "twisting" my answer in some manner, so as to leave the meat of the question untouched. I have often explained that I use this method sometimes to provoke the questioner (and other readers) in-

to carrying the matter farther, to find out if I can "irritate" some of you into going farther than you might otherwise have gone. Thus, in FORUM, there will be a sort of "new deal", in that I am prepared to "deliver", even if it hurts!

To get on with the first actual letter to be presented in FORUM, here it is:

Ray Palmer's FORUM:

Since this FORUM is willing and very able to discuss the paranormal intelligently, I submit this theme: "Animals And E. S. P."

Are animals able to see astral manifestations? Yes! Whenever a spirit materializes, both animals and clairvoyant humans react visibly.

Can the human aura be seen and interpreted by dogs? Yes, I believe that this electro-magnetic field can be seen by all dogs and can be interpreted by dogs who are experienced. That is, a dog will growl at one stranger and wag his tail at another - because one will have a smokey aura with red flashes shooting out of it, denoting cruelty, while another will have a shining golden aura denoting purity. I wish I could read and interpret the colors of the aura. I could diagnose mental, spiritual, and physical abnormalities

Someone has developed a photographic film (at Oxford University in England, I believe, and in Russia) that can take a picture of a seed and see the finished plant or tree in outline around the seed. WOW! I believe I saw that account in FATE Magazine about five years ago. Why don't they use this film to diagnose ailments - it could be used to supplement the electroencephalograph, which takes pictures of electrical currents in the brain to determine its tendency toward epilepsy.

Regarding the aura, Lobsang Rampa, author of "The Third Eye" and "Cave of the Ancients", tells of a machine designed by the lamas of Tibet to diagnose illness by interpreting the colors in the aura. One case was diagnosed as cancer of the liver. Another was diagnosed as a bent vertebra caused at birth (a fan-shaped aura was seen along the neck), and the medical lama pressed the bone and rubbed down, never up, on the infant's neck. Gradually the infant's head straightened and three days later the parents took it away.

Why can't we - so advanced in medical science - perfect such a machine?

Elizabeth Sauter,
1928 Deerwood Ave.,
Louisville, Ky.

● "Why can't they . . ." is a question asked oftenest by people who are concerned with what seems

to them to be both an injustice, and a case of missed opportunity by reason of non application of what seems to be a very obvious thing. In this case, we have a reader who is concerned with illness and its cure, and here, in what seems to be positive evidence of a means and a machine, the writer asks why it isn't used for this good purpose.

First, to cover the subject of dogs seeing the human aura, and reacting to it, there just isn't any proof that dogs growl at one person, and wag the tail at another, because they see the person's aura. This strange behavior has been explained by some mystically inclined people as due to seeing this invisible (to normal sight) aura. It is just a suggestion that this might be the reason - not a demonstrated fact. Personally, I do not think this is the cause at all. There are too many less spectacular reasons for the dogs' behavior, such as sense of smell, some hostile appearance the dog actually sees, or something of that nature, or maybe just the plain unpredictability of a dog's reaction.

Let's just assume that we can definitely establish that dogs have E. S. P. ability. What have we got after we prove it? Why, we have dogs with E. S. P. ability! And we are no further ahead than before, because all we are able to do is watch our dogs growl at one person, and wag their tails at another,

and instead of guessing why they do it, we can say, very sagely, the dog can see auras!

One of the things we wonder at when we get letters from writers who seem to be impressed with a paranormal fact, is that they are inclined to make "flat statements" that cause lifted eyebrows in the case of a listener who just doesn't have any paranormal "savvy". It is a matter of accepting a theory as fact because we are so eager to have it be a fact. The statement that the growling dog growls because he sees "a smokey aura with red flashes shooting out of it denoting cruelty". This kind of statement sounds like a quotation from a record book of some kind. Who says smokey auras with red flashes denote cruelty? Isn't this just a plain assumption? And the dog, seeing these colors, knows they denote cruelty, so he growls? And a "shining golden aura denoting purity" - this sounds like the little old lady who fondly says "shining golden purity" and such "nice" words to explain the good side of her paranormal guessing game, and "smokey, red, flashing, cruelty" words to explain the bad side of her paranormal puzzlings. She (the letter writer) says if she could see these auras, she could diagnose mental, spiritual and physical abnormalities. How? If she sees red, will she say it denotes cruelty, ambition, bravery, or what

have you? Will she just decide on emotional grounds what each color stands for. Maybe she hates red. I like it! On me, she could see an atmosphere of cruelty; but on her I might see a warm and comforting personality, shining like a homey fire in the living room fireplace.

Yes, we tend to attribute different characteristics to colors. Red, for anger, white for purity, (or is it gold?), blue for steadfastness, or is it loyalty? And so on. But we don't agree. It does not seem to be a universal interpretive thing.

When we come to the business of using this English-Russian film to diagnose illness, just how will a picture of an ill person diagnose, even if it does show his full development from a seed (his?)? A literal application of this film presents some very interesting pictures to my mind! Maybe that's why "they" don't use this film for diagnosis of ailments - just how do you do it? Photograph the person's seed? And what will the photograph show, if we do? Just an adult person? And not necessarily ill or well.

As for the electroencephalograph taking pictures of electrical currents in the brain to determine its tendency toward epilepsy - it just doesn't. It only measures brain waves, on a tape, with a pen, or other method, and comparing this wavy line, tape, or electronic

record, with normal brain waves, a doctor can detect an abnormality, and it might even be epilepsy - but no "pictures" are taken.

Lobsang Rampa may or not be what he claims in his books - but the Tibetans themselves do not corroborate him. I doubt if this machine exists, and I strongly doubt that it diagnoses auras to the extent of detecting cancers of the liver, or bent vertebra. If, in the case of the bent vertebra, the diagnosis comes as a result of the observation of an odd, fan shaped aura at the point of the bent vertebra, no machine is necessary to make the diagnosis, merely a paranormal observation of a fan-shaped aura at the bent vertebra, and an "interpretation" that fan shapes mean abnormal vertebrae.

And in the rubbing process that does the cure (!), why rub always down and NEVER up? This sounds like an important thing, but why is it important? What would happen if we rubbed up? And what would make it happen? Even if we could rub a bent vertebra into straightness, why wouldn't the rubbing be just as effective in an upward direction?

If we could perfect such a machine, and it diagnosed correctly, we would have a lot of rubbing to do, and for the life of me, why can't we just take the ill person and rub him to start with, and dispense with the machine which after all does nothing but tell us to rub?

Elizabeth, dear girl, we are not criticizing you, or your letter, or deprecating your subject for discussion. It has been a most interesting thing to discuss. Maybe we will hear more about it, answering some of the questions I have asked. Who knows, somebody might actually have a reason why such a machine should, or should not, be developed, and suggest a use for it that so far we haven't been able to agree upon. In FORUM, no one is to take my replies as being deprecating, or hostile, or condescending, or even "smart talk". The whole thing is sincere, and we like to think all of us will pull no punches in what we say.

Personally, I think dogs and other animals do have paranormal powers (what is a paranormal sense but one that is still unknown and unclassified?). I have observed them myself seeming to see something I could not see. And being afraid with no visible reason for their fear. These are things we are interested in finding out about, but merely mentioning that they exist, and drawing wild conclusions from the mention is not enough.

Thanks for your letter, and we hope it starts the ball rolling. This Letters section should be a hot battleground once some of you out there begin using this editor for a punching bag. And we know you will! We've had it coming to us for years! - Rap.

Friend RAP:

Have read with interest my first copy of your FORUM. To say the least, it has possibilities. I have two questions you may or may not care to answer:

- 1) When you dream, do you dream in black and white, or in color?
- 2) Were you' ever a student at Armour Tech in Chicago?

Harvey T. Higgins,

- 2010 N. W. 87th Street,
Miami, Florida, 33147

● All my talk about telling the truth, and here I have been caught in my first lie! I do have letters to publish - they began coming in even as I prepared the previous page for the camera. But not only one letter! - dozens of them! And some of them are so good I could not resist changing my line-up for this second issue, just so I could get them in!

1) I dream in both black and white and in color. But there is an IMPORTANT distinction: a black and white dream fits the pattern of the psychologists who say these are the result of the subconscious mind drawing upon haphazard memories and fashioning an illusion, most of which does not make rational sense when analyzed in the light of day; or is the result of some physical disturbance such as upset stomach, nerve tension, or a problem that is plaguing the mind; the dream in color DOES NOT ORIGINATE in my own mind, but COMES FROM

OUTSIDE, and is entirely logical when analyzed after awakening, and further, invariably turns out to be true.

Thus, it is that the fact of color indicates to me that here is a dream to be trusted, containing true information, and generally coming for a definite purpose of some use to me.

There is also a very peculiar physical side effect which accompanies the dream which is just not possible to duplicate under any other circumstances. The closest I can come to describing it is to refer you to Shaver's "stim". It is as though some unusual energy is present, such as a "carrier beam" for the conveyance of the dream to me from some OTHER POINT in space than my own bedroom.

When I say this, I am postulating the existence of an intelligent outside source for this dream, I know, and this apparently simple statement is one that cannot be explained in a few sentences. In a future FORUM I shall go extensively into this matter of colored dreams, and the source - called by Shaver THE DREAM MAKERS. All I will say now is that color dreams are DIFFERENT in an important way, and that the purpose of this present statement is merely to answer your question - yes, I dream in black and white AND in color.

2) I never studied at Armour, but I did conduct some experiments with

some of their physicists on the possibility of conducting healthful flows of pure carbon into the body by the fantastic means of holding a piece of pure carbon in one hand and a magnet in the other. The scientists went to great pains to provide me with the purest carbon possible to manufacture, and did not scoff at the experiment, as you might think they would. We did not achieve any positive results, but we did conclude that the theory was not illogical. - Rap.

Dear Friend:

I am writing to say I received a copy of your new magazine FORUM and read it through. What you have done in spite of your great handicap makes me feel very ashamed that I have not made more of my life.

I also want to say I have the book "Oahspe" and wish you would write an article on that book. What are your thoughts on it? It seems to be in conflict with Christianity, says God is not the real creator, and Christ is a false Christ.

There are many interesting and informative things in the book. It is against meat eating, or anything that comes from animals and even says not to eat vegetables grown in the dark underground. What do you think of all this?

I do not remember subscribing to FORUM, but if I didn't, let me know and I will.

I remember seeing Halley's

comet, but I was much older than you when I saw it.

I am interested in flying saucers and in fact all things that we do not yet understand. I feel there is much to know that we don't yet know.

Alice Nadine Morrison,

1025 First Ave., West,

Seattle, Washington, 98119

● As the author of the songs "Say You'll Be Mine"; "Sweet Anabel"; "Love's Ship" and "Gay Paree", I wouldn't exactly say you hadn't done enough with your life!

To my way of thinking, those who see a conflict with Christianity in "Oahspe" just are not reading carefully enough. When it refers to a "false Christ", it refers to exactly that - a FALSE one. It actually names the imposter - an angel named Looeamong. It does NOT call Christ false.

Also, when it says "God" is not the creator, it is a matter of designation: in "Oahspe", the angel in charge of this planet (or any planet) is TITLED "God"; and the angel who serves under him, and has charge of a continent (for example) is called a "Lord"; and in still another instance, an angel in charge of something else, perhaps a city, is called a "Lord God". All these terms we find in the Bible, used rather loosely to define ONE person, whom we assume to be the Creator. In "Oahspe" a distinction is made - the Creator is a

source, the REAL boss, the head of everything, and unlike the titled personages, who are merely men who have advanced to such positions of high responsibility; the Creator is not a man, nor is He in a man's image, but is something not understandable, nor possible of being understood and comprehended by any intelligence other than himself.

In our legends, we remember a few of the "Gods" who ruled this planet for a period (thousands of years?) as Apollo, Thor, Aph, etc. But none of them were the Creator, who must necessarily be a mystery to man, angel or god because no man can create himself. Thus, the creator is not a man, nor a man-god. A careful reading of "Oahspe" will clarify this apparent "blasphemy", and reconcile the Christian to the truth "Oahspe" tries to tell him - that Christianity is a perfectly legitimate and true religious revelation from God himself, as the instrument used by the Creator to contact His creations.

"Oahspe" is not against meat eating. It merely explains that the meat eater tends toward earthly things, and by eating meat, binds himself to earthly things; whereas the non-eater tends toward spirituality. I myself have tested this, by going without meat for a period, and while I did not maintain the diet long enough to determine any advance in spiritual qualities (in-

sofar as I could detect), I did discover that it is false to assume that lack of meat weakens your physical body or your health. In fact, my health was definitely improved, in that I no longer required glasses, and a sinus condition disappeared permanently.

"Oahspe" does make some odd statements about things gestating in the dark, and that the "electricity" of underground vegetables is different (negative) than those grown above ground; but to my memory, it does not actually say not to eat anything, but merely indicates certain results of such eating, which may or may not be good or bad. If you want to be spiritual, be a medium, converse with the spirits, do automatic writing, then don't eat meat. If you want to be a soldier, and tough in a rough and tumble fight, eat meat!

As for subscribing to FORUM, either you did, or a friend gave you a gift. Anyway, when your last issue reaches you, it will contain an expiration notice, and we'll be glad to have you keep on with this magazine. - Rap.

Dear Ray:

I was interested in reading the first edition of your "Forum" and regret that you have had such difficulty in producing it.

Your magazine, although interesting, is not unique or outstanding in its subject material

for there are many well-established magazines on the market which are widely read by people interested in psychic phenomena, telepathy, dreams, flying saucers or U.F.O.'s, life after death and ESP, so you have a real challenge if you wish to compete with these publications.

You say that we are not here for any reason and that there is no great master plan. How mistaken can you be? Of course we are here for a real reason and a very important one and there is a master plan for each one of us and the world. God's plan for our world is evolution throughout all the kingdoms - mineral, vegetable, and animal, including man. That is growing into a state of perfection. To quote from the bible. "Be ye therefore perfect even as your Father in Heaven is perfect." This life on earth is like a school wherein we learn to overcome our lower or animal nature and attain more spiritual qualities and become conscious of the Christ spirit within us. And this, my brother, cannot be accomplished in one short life span.

When you say that man is not a spiritual being you are disagreeing with the great spiritual leaders of the world, past and present who definitely state that man is a spiritual being, a part of God, functioning in a material or

physical body, and his future destiny is to unite and become one with God, the one great Universal Spirit, the Creator of all that is.

You refer to the akashic records as only recording one's misdeeds, but that would not be fair. The Creator of the universe is just and fair in all His creations. The akashic records, I understand, is a very fine and sensitive spiritual substance which is everywhere present so that the slightest vibrations of an ether anyplace in the universe registers an indelible impression upon it. The metaphysicians call it the "Universal Mind" and the bible refers to it as "The book of God's remembrance." So every thought and deed, good or bad is recorded. The great clairvoyant Edgar Cayce was one who was able to read this record and could give information regarding many events which happened in the history of our world.

You undoubtedly have had many experiences in ESP which is interesting to hear. Dr. Louisa E. Rhine has done a great deal of research in the field of ESP including dreams and in her book, "Hidden Channels Of The Mind," she relates and explains many of the dreams which hundreds of people have sent in to her. If you have not read this book it might be helpful to you.

Bernice P. Ellis

P.O. Box 574
Lucerne Valley,
California

● When I said we were not here for any great master plan, I was referring to the belief that many of us have that we are "big wheels" who are returning to this planet to "save the world". I am, in short, taking a pot shot at those egotists who not only ask me to believe in their own "reincarnation", but I am asked to swallow the assumption that they are the "VIP big shot" who is running the show, but can't even remember enough of their previous magnificent advancement to count correctly to ten!

I remember one fellow who was Gallileo returned to Earth, and he couldn't even identify Venus in the evening sky! Yet he remembered his 9,675 previous reincarnations (all as big shots) with perfect clarity, and I would remember too, when I achieved my "Christ consciousness". Heaven help us if the fate of mankind depends on such fatuous incompetents. - Rap.

Dear Ray:

On page three - - - your picture! It was like being at a materialization trance. Not identical, of course, but amazingly similar to former Commissioner Leigh Smith, once part of Springfield, Illinois' municipal govern-

ment. He was desk secretary at the Y., when I stayed there before he became Commissioner. AND he had a hunch, as you say you have. How about that, Ray?

In your LETTERS you list possible sources of obstruction to the publication of FORUM. May I add a seventh: Your subconscious mind? Psychologists used to claim that accident pronos respond to a guilt complex by punishing themselves by accidents. I am not meaning you feel guilty of something, and thus are punished. But something in your subconscious mind may take this outlet. Just a seventh to round off your list.

In your EDITORIAL you refer to the Bible. But you seem to try to interpret it as if an English book. Not so, Ray! Most of it is Hebrew. The New Testament is Koine period Attic Greek. Both Testaments have some Western Aramaic chapters, paragraphs, verses, and words. So what? So "man" in the Old Testament is Adam (Adm, also translated Edom) meaning Red (Earth). Sometimes it is accompanied with the Hebrew definite article, the English "the", literally "the man". In that case it is usually Adam.

So what, again? Even theologians, who should know better, forget this, and treat "Lucifer" as if it was the original word in the Bible. Yet "Lucifer" is neither Greek, nor Aramaic, nor He-

brew. It is a Latin word, used to translate the Greek of the Septuagint, which in Isaiah 14:12 paraphrased the original Hebrew. Because theologians forget this important fact, the myth exploited in the poem, "Paradise Lost", arose and kindred myths. Not only about Lucifer, but based upon other translations in other books and verses of the Bible.

I urge you to get the Concordant Publishing Concern's translation of the New Testament and as much as they have of the Old Testament so far (Genesis and Isaiah to date), and read their consistently accurate rendering of the Greek, Hebrew, and Aramaic, before you comment on the meaning of Biblical words. Their address is Concordant Publishing Concern, 15570 W. Knochaven Drive, Saugus, California, 91350, U.S.A. This does not mean that such consistently literal translation is all that is necessary to understanding. Not so! There are figures of speech in Hebrew and Greek. A consistently literal rendering of them into English merely substitutes English words for the original Hebrew or Greek ones, and leaves us with a Figure of Speech as before. For instance the famous one "The Gates of Hell, or Hades or The Unseen". What does it mean? Some say "the devil and his imps". Others say "the grave." Here, you could come in, Ray, with

your personal gifts of E.S.P. or whatever. But, the basis should be the consistently literal translation.

I am willing to accept what you say as to your unusual gifts, Ray. A friend of mine claims I am gullible. But I prefer gullibility to taking the chance of rejecting Truth for fear of being called gullible or credulous. Sooner or later the grey or tan comes in contact with real white and is exposed for what it is. I can wait. Even if I am past seventy!

Perhaps one reason why I am gullible is that at times I have had flashes my own self. Once, during a moment of great excitement, I read the mind of a man. Again, I picked the mind of a man who was trying to explain something in which I was intensely interested. In both instances I was not in a normal frame of mind.

Before leaving the subject, I note that accounts of astral projection have no mind in the deserted body. But my only personal experience of it was the reverse? I seemed to split into two Joe Hartmans, each one equally me. One remained in the body, which fell to the floor. The other was in an invisible (to others) body, which remained upright looking down at the fallen physical body. Each mind was

distinct, yet both were me. Later I asked him what he saw. He said he saw me (my body) lying on the floor. I asked if I could have seen him coming? He denied that I could have, for the back of my head was toward him. Yet the mind standing up did see him coming. That was my sole experience of that kind. It occurred in the Fall of 1920, 45 years ago. It was spontaneous, following an injury to the cervical vertabrae.

I would be inclined to attribute your gifts to the long period of physical inactivity during the healing of your spine, except for the fact that you had such phenomenal memory of your infancy. Some students think it possible that some of our dreams may be remnants of the journey of the sperm from the testicle to the seminal vesicle via the vas deferentia - - - dreams of journeying through caverns. I used to have them. I dream rarely any more. As a child I used to dream of a vast, white snake about forty feet long. It was always friendly, until the final dream, when it attacked me. That final dream was just before puberty set in. I remember one warning dream of a fire. I told my mother of it in the morning. That night the tippie of a mine burned. She thought it a fulfillment. Yet I was not concerned with the mine.

At the end of the first world war there was an epidemic of Flu. The remnant of it attacked my brother and I in February 1919. The doctor ordered my brother to the hospital, but I refused to go and stayed all alone. After the ambulance had gone, I got a bucket of water from the well and poured a package of sun-dried peaches in it and put a dipper in it and collapsed in bed. All I had to drink was the water from those peaches. After three days I went back to work, but my brother was not out of the hospital for two months. I KNEW just what I should do. So I, too, have flashes.

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● I don't know if you are aware of my own "theory" that we are in trouble regarding ancient languages because of an "assumption" that English is the most modern language, rather than the most ancient? We have the word experts tracing all the languages you mention, and others, back from their presence in the English, and showing how they got there - instead of regarding all these other languages as the "offshoot evolutions" of the parent language, the language of the "Angles" or the "angels".

And right there, I suppose, I have lighted the fuse to a furious fight in our Roman Forum! - Rap.